



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

February 1, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger,
Chairperson
Senator Bill Fink
Senator Eugene Fraise
Senator Steve King
Senator Neal Schuerer
Senator Elaine Szymoniak

Representative Willard Jenkins,
Vice Chairperson
Representative Paul Bell
Representative Jack Drake
Representative Chuck Gipp
Representative Jane Greimann
Representative Paul Scherrman

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. Procedural Business.
 - II. Presentation.
 - III. Committee Discussion and Action.
 - IV. Future Meetings.
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International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business.

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Boettger at 5:05 p.m. in Committee Room 22 of the Statehouse and was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

II. Presentation.

Julie Livers, Director, Legislative Information Office, provided the Committee with information regarding the work of the Legislative Information Office in international relations. She provided the Committee with statistics regarding the number of international visitors as noted by the Capitol tour guides and the number of international visitors hosted by the General Assembly over recent years.

Ms. Livers noted that the Governor's Office had an international relations division in the early 1990s before it was dissolved. She stated that the Legislative Branch began receiving an increased number of international visitors and dignitaries approximately nine years ago and she noted that the Legislative Council formed the International Relations Committee in 1993.

Ms. Livers reviewed budgetary matters of the International Relations Committee since its inception. She described many of the gifts that are available for the Legislative Branch to provide to visitors in Des Moines and to hosts on international trips. Ms. Livers stated that the Governor's Office had recently rejected a number of requests to incorporate the state seal of Iowa on various gifts and materials.

Ms. Livers provided the Committee with anecdotal information relating to the efforts of the Legislative Information Office assisting international delegations upon the request of state agencies or when no entity of the state appears to be aiding a delegation.

III. Committee Discussion and Action.

Discussion. The Committee discussed matters relating to the oversight of the state seal of Iowa. It was determined that neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives has an official seal. The Committee questioned and discussed what the proper scope of the Committee should be. The Committee discussed the need for better communication regarding international relations between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch and between the various departments in the Executive Branch. The Committee discussed the need to treat international delegations appropriately, in accordance with the customs and traditions of the delegation's country of origin. The Committee discussed the need for more significant gifts to be available for the use of the Legislative Branch.

Action. Senator Fink made a motion that a liaison from the Governor's Office be invited to all future meetings of the Committee on International Relations when appropriate. Senator Schuerer seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

IV. Future Meetings.

The Committee discussed the possibility of speakers for upcoming meetings of the Committee. Suggested speakers included business leaders and representatives of Regents institutions involved with international relations

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